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March 17, 2004 LB 724, 1083

provide and conform to a bidding and other restrictions that apply to the new services. It requires all regions to comply with applicable rules and regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to provision of services by the region, and it requires such rules and regulations to include uniform equitable public bidding procedures; authorizes the Behavioral Health System Division to reduce and discontinue regional center services, or to close regional center services if appropriate community-based or regional center services are available for every person receiving regional center services affected by the reduction, discontinuation, or closure, and no further commitments, admissions or readmissions of such services are required because appropriate replacement services would then be available. It changes provisions to establishment of a State Behavioral Health Council. The amendment provides that the council would consist of ten members from each of the three state advisory committees: the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, consisting of 23 members appointed by the Governor, in accordance with federal guidelines; the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services; and also the Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services, consisting of 12 members. The Governor would appoint three members from each committee to serve on the council. It increases the membership of the Behavioral Health Council from 15 to 20. the way, this Behavioral Health Commission would be a blue ribbon committee...commission where we would have people with...of different disciplines represented on that, along with consumers. Also, we would have individuals on there who have experience in this field. It maintains the provisions of It maintains the provisions of LB 1083 that require the behavioral health implementation plan to include criteria, procedures, and time lines. It requires the mental health board to immediately notify county attorney when the board receives notice of a discharge of a committed person from a regional center; requires the notice of a mental health board of such discharge but previous...but the previous seven-day advance notice was removed in LB 724 last year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Health and Human Services Committee for their interest, I...also Speaker Bromm for his gracious efforts, and for the other members who have expressed interest in this, both proponents and opponents. We have a system that can stand improvement and it